



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Larry Jordan
Patricia Beard	William Morebeck
James Brenner	Vicky Morris
Paul Ferrari	John Nitta
Wayne Vineyard	

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

February 11, 2008

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patti Beard, Wayne Vineyard, Larry Jordan, John Nitta

Members Absent: Jim Brenner, Paul Ferrari, William Morebeck, Vicky Morris

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR JANUARY 14, 2008**
Motion to approve:
Beard/Aguilar/MPUV
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
None
 - IV. **NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT (NID) AGRICULTURAL WATER RATE INCREASE UPDATE** – Don Wight, Operations Manager
Mr. Wight gave a presentation on the proposed rate increase for raw and treated water. Users can expect a 6% average increase this year and a 6.5% increase every year for the next five years. Report and rate adjustment done in accordance with Proposition 218. NID notified its customers of the proposed rate increase in January, 2008. The rate increase is part of the district's 10-year master financial plan. Mr. Wight explained that the current rate is not covering the operating costs of providing raw water and irrigation water to customers. The proposed new rates still remain substantially below the cost of providing service to customers. Commission members had concerns that a Berkeley based consulting firm put together the report for the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) instead of a local firm.

District customers may lodge protests in writing on or before the NID's Board is scheduled to approve the increases on February 27, 2008. Prop. 218 also allows for public comment during this meeting. The district has received 55 letters of protest to the rate increase. If the rate increase is approved it will go into effect March 1, 2008.

- V. PLACER COUNTY TREE ORDINANCE UPDATE, INFORMATIONAL ONLY** – Loren Clark, Planning Department
Larry Jordan, Agricultural Commission, Timber Industry, informed the Commission members that the Placer County Tree Ordinance has been put on hold until some of the safety issues are addressed.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities** – Nancyjo Riekse - No report
- B. Economic Development Board (EDB) Update** – Lyndell Grey - No report
- C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor** – Roger Ingram – No report
- D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor** – Cindy Fake – No report
- E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas/Minutes** – Patti Beard - No report
- F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update** – William Morebeck - No report
- G. Agricultural Water Supply Subcommittee/Ag Water Waivers** – Christine E. Turner - No report

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Joshua Huntsinger, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

- Conflict of Interest Statements due to Tonya by 3-14-08.
- Mountain Mandarin Festival received numerous awards.
- Bovine Tuberculosis found in a dairy farm in Fresno County. USDA and CDFA keeping close tabs on outbreak.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) – Irrigated Lands Program monitoring reported minimal exceedance of E.coli and believed to be human and not ag related.
- RWQCB sending out letters to property owners that they suspect have irrigated land as seen from aerial photographs, and notifying land owners of the option to belong to Water Coalition. If property owner does not respond, they could face possible fines.
- Very nice article on Al Nitta and erosion control in the recent issue of Environmental Connection.
- Discussion of possible March 10, 2008 agenda items.
- Presentation at future meeting regarding Biomass Program.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2008 at the Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary
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